

Programme

Seminar:
Micro-credentials in the EHEA
Small Learning Units – Big Opportunities?

1 July 2021

Virtual Event

MICRO-CREDENTIALS IN THE EHEA

Small Learning Units – Big Opportunities?

In the wake of an increased speed of technology progression, society and the labour market demand increasingly complex skills. The disruptive nature of certain technologies can quickly devalue once-acquired knowledge and enforce reskilling and upskilling efforts. In this context, education is no longer attributed to a specific age group or target group, but higher education institutions have to become familiar with and adapt to the needs of the lifelong learner.

The core principle of micro-credentials is to provide the educational framework for these reskilling and upskilling efforts and to give recognition to newly acquired competences, as learners increasingly want and have to document their personal learning paths throughout their working life. Here, micro-credentials fill a gap between a formal degree-based education, and the fast-changing development of knowledge and labour market needs.

The seminar within the framework of the DAAD project **bologna hub** will focus on the latest developments with regard to the uptake of micro-credentials in the EHEA – most notably, the “European Approach to micro-credentials”. It will also highlight various good practice examples and micro-credential initiatives related to the Bologna key commitments. In addition, also the wider impact of the use of micro-credentials on lifelong learning and increased inclusiveness in the EHEA shall be discussed.

The seminar aims at enriching the ongoing discussion on micro-credentials and bringing together professionals from the policy level as well as experts, HEI administrators and providers of micro-credentials.

Key questions

- What are the latest developments with regard to the uptake of micro-credentials in the EHEA?
- What is the “European approach on micro-credentials” and what does its roadmap for actions entail?
- Will HEI in Germany and the EHEA increasingly enter the market for micro-credentials or will they leave it to private providers and employers?
- Will micro-credentials usher in a “new normal” of the unbundling and personalized re-bundling of education? Is that an addition or a threat to the coherence of traditional degree programmes?
- Will micro-credentials become a tool for more inclusiveness by facilitating access to higher education and provide an entry point to regular degree programmes?
- Or will providers focus primarily on revenue and corporate demands and develop such programmes only for advanced learners in the workforce who already hold a degree?

Thursday, 1 JULY 2021

10:30	Opening of Online Platform
11:00	Welcome and Introduction Stephan Geifes, Director Erasmus+ National Agency Higher Education, DAAD
11:10	Setting the scene A European Approach to Micro-credentials – Output of the Micro-credentials Higher Education Consultation Group (20 Min.) Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of Unit Higher Education at DG-EAC, European Commission
11:30	Discussion: Micro-credentials in the EHEA: Small Learning Units – Big Opportunities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of Unit Higher Education at DG-EAC, European Commission - Elmar Schultz, Deputy Head of Department Higher Education System, University Law and Funding, German Rectors' Conference (HRK) - Kerstin Kuchta, Vice-President, Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) - Frederik de Decker, Head International Relations Office, Ghent University - Facilitator: David Akrami Flores, Head of Section "Erasmus+ Key Action 3: Policy Support", DAAD
12:30	Lunch Break
13:30	Breakout Sessions – Micro-credential initiatives and good practice examples <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Quality-assured micro-credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maria Kelo, Director, ENQA Secretariat - Heribert Nacken, Rector's Delegate for Blended Learning and Exploratory Teaching Space, RWTH Aachen University "The RWTH Aachen University MicroMasters® Program in 'Managing Technology & Innovation: How to deal with disruptive change'" - Henri Pirkkalainen, ECIU Project Lead "Open and flexible learning/Micro-credentials", Tampere University - Facilitator: Olaf Bartz, Managing Director, German Accreditation Council 2.) Digital Credentialing and Recognition Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anthony Camilleri, Director, Knowledge Innovation Centre; Jochen Ehrenreich, Project Manager, Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW); "European Credit Clearinghouse for Opening up Education" (ECCOE) - Barbara Schwarzwald, Senior Desk Officer, Section „Digitalisation“, DAAD „Digitale Bildungsnachweise für Hochschulen“ (DiBiHo) - Frans Ward, Technical Product Manager, SURF edubadges - Facilitator: Chiara Finocchietti, Deputy Director, Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

	<p>3.) <i>Micro-credentials and Qualifications Frameworks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George Ubachs, Managing Director, European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) “European MOOC Consortium: Common Microcredential Framework” - Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Digital Learning, Dublin City University - Facilitator: Frederik de Decker, Head International Relations Office, Ghent University
14:30	Health Break
14:45	Reports from Breakout Sessions (Facilitators, 5 Min. each)
15:00	<p>Keynote: “The Human Resource Curse” Daniel Markovits, Professor of Law, Yale Law School Author of “The Meritocracy Trap”</p>
15:25	<p>Discussion: Equalizer or Stratifier? The impact of micro-credentials on inclusiveness in the EHEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniel Markovits, Professor of Law, Yale Law School - Ronja Hesse, Executive Committee member, European Students Union - Dominic Orr, Senior Advisor, GIZ & Adjunct Professor for Educational Management, Nova Gorica University - Andrzej Krasniewski, Coordinator ENHANCE WP 3 «Society-centred Education» & Professor for Telecommunications, Warsaw University of Technology - Facilitator: Tim Maschuw, Team Leader, Section “Erasmus+ Key Action 3: Policy Support”, DAAD
16:25	Wrap up/Final Remarks
16:30	End

Conference Language: English

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